

# Seeding Roads and Landings

## Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry



**Seeding** log landings, skid roads, retired roads, and road banks can

- Protect valuable soil from eroding
- Protect water quality in streams
- Improve the looks of a logging site
- Create prime wildlife cover and feeding areas for turkey, quail, grouse, rabbit and other animals
- Create travel lanes for wildlife
- Stabilizes roads for recreational use

Rip compacted areas with a single-shank subsoiler (50hp tractor required), then seed using a mix of any of the following (be sure to maintain proportions that add up to give full coverage):

### **Perennials**

Fescue	20 lb/ac mid-August through mid-October <i>and/or</i> mid-February through mid-May
Orchard grass	18 lb/ac mid-August through mid-October <i>and/or</i> mid-February through mid-May
Clover	4 lb/ac mid-February through mid-May
Lespedeza	12 lb/ac mid-February through mid-May
Perennial rye	25 lb/ac mid-August through mid-October <i>and/or</i> mid-February through mid-May
Crown vetch	5 lb/ac mid-August through mid-October <i>and/or</i> mid-February through mid-May
Prairie grasses	7-10 lb/ac mid-May through mid-June
Partridge pea	14 lb/ac mid-March through mid-May

### **Annuals**

Sorghum	45 lb/ac mid-April through mid-June
Wheat	50 lb/ac mid-August through mid-October <i>and/or</i> mid-February through mid-May
Timothy	8 lb/ac mid-August through mid-October <i>and/or</i> mid-February through mid-May
Buckwheat	40 lb/ac mid-August through mid-October <i>and/or</i> mid-February through mid-May

Keep seed from washing away.

- Pre-plan roads so they are not too steep, and flag them. Good roads are a permanent investment that can be used far into the future.
- Maximum grades might be 10% in soils that are relatively resistant to erosion, such as clays and cherty soils, and only 3% or so in highly erosive soils, such as West Tennessee silts and silt loams.
- Be sure roads are well drained so that water can flow off the road rather than down it. A very effective drainage method is to “out-slope” the road grade.
- Take advantages of terrain features that can serve as natural drains.

After harvest is complete, lime (~ 2 tons per acre) and fertilize (~ 500 lb./ac 6-12-12 or 250 lb/ac 12-24-24). Disking the seed in is optional. If the soil is loose, dry and dusty, rain will mix the seed in. Sticks and other logging debris left on the site will help hold seed and prevent erosion.